

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-10 IO-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14 USIA-04 DRC-01 /070 W

----- 055400

R 091305Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6132

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 1787

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PINS, JO, IS

SUBJECT: MAJOR WEST BANK SETTLEMENT ATTEMPT

1. WOULD-BE SETTLERS, ESTIMATED UP TO 7,000 IN NUMBER AND ORGANIZED INTO AS MANY AS 20 GROUPS, ATTEMPTED ON NIGHT OF OCTOBER 8 TO BREAK THROUGH INTENSIVE ISRAELI ARMY AND POLICE CONTROLS TO TAKE UP POSITIONS AT WEST BANK SITES. LARGE-SCALE EFFORT WAS APPARENTLY TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST. ALMOST ALL GROUPS WERE BROKEN UP AT ASSEMBLY PLACES IN ISRAEL OR TURNED BACK AT WEST BANK BOUNDARY. AS OF EARLY AFTERNOON OCTOBER 9 ONE GROUP WAS APPARENTLY HOLDING OUT NEAR INN OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN ON JERUSALEM-JERICHO ROAD AND ANOTHER NEAR BIBLICAL SHILOH BETWEEN RAMALLAH AND NABLUS. GIVEN GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION, IT SEEMED ONLY MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THESE TWO ALSO FOLDED.

2. SETTLERS GATHERED AT ABOUT 10 P.M. OCTOBER 8 IN JERUSALEM, PETAH TIKVA, BAR ILAN UNIVERSITY IN RAMAT GAN AND OTHER LOCATIONS. THOSE IN PETAH TIKVA AND BAR ILAN WERE REPORTEDLY BARRED FROM MOVING OUT AND WERE DISPERSED. SOME OF THE GROUPS OPERATING FROM JERUSALEM MANAGED TO PASS EXTENSIVE ROAD BLOCKS,
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IN PART BY PROCEEDING ON FOOT. THEY MADE THEIR WAY TO JERICHO

ROAD AND TO SHILOH.

3. COMMENT: THE OPERATION, CARRIED OUT WITH MILITARY-LIKE
SCALE AND PLANNING, CLEARLY FAILED IN THE FACE OF ALERT AND
DETERMINED AUTHORITY TO ESTBLISH ACTUAL SETTLEMENTS. TO EXTENT
THAT IT WAS PLANNED MAINLY AS DEMONSTRATION ON EVE OF SECRETARY'S
VISIT, HOWEVER, IT COULD BE CONSIDERED BY SETTLERS
AS HAVING MADE ITS POINT.
DAY

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